Attachment B

Key Elements Critical to a Watershed Management Plan

Planning and development of watershed plans should be done in cooperation with local communities, soil and water conservation districts, agricultural producers, and other watershed stakeholders resulting in locally led partnerships to implement the plans. Any application for funding to implement a Watershed Management Plan must address the nine critical watershed elements as identified by the EPA in 2003.

EPA believes that these nine elements are critical to assure that public funds to address impaired waters are used effectively. (Appendix C of the May 1996 Nonpoint Source Guidance further discusses a "well-designed watershed implementation plan," which specifically discusses most of the elements listed below.)

a. An identification of the sources or groups of similar sources that will need to be controlled to achieve the load reductions estimated established in this watershed-based plan (and to achieve any other watershed goals identified in the watershed-based plan), as discussed in item (b) immediately below. Sources that need to be controlled should be identified at the significant subcategory level with estimates of the extent to which they are present in the watershed (e.g., X numbers of dairy cattle feedlots needing upgrading, including a rough estimate of the number of cattle per facility; Y acres of row crops needing improved nutrient management or sediment control; or Z linear miles of eroded streambank needing remediation).
b. An estimate of the load reductions expected for these management measures described under paragraph (c) below (recognizing the natural variability and the difficulty in precisely predicting the performance of management measures over time). Estimates should be provided at the same level of as in item (a) above (e.g., the total load reduction expected for dairy cattle feedlots; row crops; or eroded streambanks).
c. A description of the nonpoint source management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve the load reductions estimated established under paragraph (b) above (as well as to achieve other watershed goals identified in this watershed-based plan), and an identification (using a map or a description) of the critical areas in which those measures will be needed to implement this plan.
d. An estimate of the sources of technical and financial assistance needed, the associated costs, and/or authorities that will be relied upon, to implement this plan. As sources of funding, States should consider the use of their 319 programs, State Revolving Funds, USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Reserve Program, and other relevant Federal, State, local and private funds that may be available to assist in implementing this plan.
e. An information/education component that will be used to enhance public understanding of the project and encourage their early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing the nonpoint source management measures that will be implemented.
f. A schedule for implementing the nonpoint source management measures identified in this plan that is reasonably expeditious.
g. A description of interim, measurable milestones for determining whether nonpoint source management measures or other control actions are being implemented.
h. A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made towards attaining water quality standards and, if not, the criteria for determining whether this watershed-based plan needs to be revised or, if a nonpoint source TMDL has been established, whether the nonpoint source TMDL needs to be revised.
i. A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts measured against the criteria established under item (h) immediately above.